

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed July 16, 2002 has been reviewed and carefully considered. Claim 34 has been amended. Claims 1-68 are pending in this application, with claims 1 and 34 being the only independent claims. Reconsideration of the above-identified application, as herein amended and in view of the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action mailed July 16, 2002, the Examiner objected to the drawings on formal matters listed on a PTO-948 form. A letter submitting formal drawings is attached hereto including formal drawings which overcome the objections listed on the PTO-948 form. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the objection to the drawings now be withdrawn.

Claims 1-23, 25-33, 35-61 and 63-68 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,330,595 (Ullman). Claims 24, 62, and 34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Ullman in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,317,795 (Malkin).

The present invention relates to a time-dependent hyperlink system in video content in which a link stream is transmitted in parallel with a video stream to a video browser of a user display. Content reference for at least one hyperlink is associated with a video by associating the content reference with coordinates at which the hyperlink appears in the video. As a user watches the video stream, the user may want more information about something which is seen in the video. For example, the video may show a person walking from room to room in a house and the hyperlinks may be associated with different furniture in each of the rooms. Therefore, a hyperlink for a kitchen chair is only selectable for the portion of time that the chair is displayed. Accordingly, to find out more about the kitchen chair, the user merely clicks on the chair while the chair is viewable in the video. The browser then starts a new session by

connecting to the content reference associated with the coordinates that were selected, i.e., in response to the user selection.

Independent claim 1 recites "selecting by the user a selected hyperlink in the video by selecting coordinates at which the selected hyperlink appears in the video", "determining the content reference for a new session of the selected hyperlink based on the selected coordinates", "initiating a connection of the browser to the new session of the selected hyperlink", and "switching the connection of the browser from the first content server to the new session".

It is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1 is allowable over Ullman for the following reasons. Ullman discloses an enhanced video programming system and method for incorporating and displaying retrieved integrated internet information segments in which hyperlinks are associated with content in a video. However, Ullman fails to teach or suggest that the switching over to the new session is only in response to the selection of coordinates in the video as recited in independent claim 1. In col. 7, lines 33-51, Ullman discloses that a browser automatically retrieves web pages associated with the hyperlinks and synchronizes the web pages to the video content for display on the computer screen during the playing of the video instead of being selected (col. 8, lines 19-22). According to Ullman, a user does not control whether a web page is retrieved or not while the video is being displayed. The retrieval occurs automatically. If a video were to have a great number of hyperlinks, all of them would be downloaded automatically according to Ullman which might adversely affect the performance of the computer operating the video. Ullman further discloses that a control panel may be displayed on a portion of the computer screen with a list of URLs whose associated web pages were previously displayed. These URLs are selectable by the user but they are no longer associated

with the current video content, as recited in independent claim 1. Accordingly, Ullman fails to teach or suggest "selecting by the user a selected hyperlink in the video by selecting coordinates at which the selected hyperlink appears in the video", as recited in step (c) of claim 1.

In view of the above remarks, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1 is allowable over Ullman. Dependent claims 2-33, being dependent on independent claim 1, are allowable for at least the same reasons as independent claim 1.

Independent claim 34 is amended and now recites "means for determining when said hyperlink is selected by determining when coordinates at which the hyperlink appears in the video are selected".

As stated above, Ullman discloses that hyperlinks are automatically connected at the appropriate times during the video. Ullman does not allow the user to download only particular hyperlinks by selecting coordinates in the video to select a new session. The only selection which may be performed by the user is in a control panel which lists all previous hyperlinks which were shown. Accordingly, [↗]Ullman fails to teach that the user selects hyperlinks from the coordinates of the video.

Malkin discloses a dynamic modification of multimedia content in which a portion of the video frame is masked. According to Malkin, a "fuzz ball track" is applied to a video. The fuzz ball track is an area which may be used to cover inappropriate or objectional subject matter such as nudity or violence. Malkin teaches that the "fuzz ball track" is sent as a separate file with the video. The definition of what is inappropriate is specified by the user. Malkin teaches that the area of the video covered by the fuzz ball tracks may be modified to mask the inappropriate subject matter if the subject matter is inappropriate as specified by the user. However, [↗]Malkin fails to teach or suggest that the fuzz ball tracks or any other area of the

video are hyperlinks which may be selected by a user to switch the browser connection. In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 34 is allowable over Ullman in view of Malkin.

Dependent claims 35-68, being dependent on independent claim 34, are allowable for at least the same reasons as independent claim 34.

The application is now deemed to be in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is solicited.

It is believed that no fees or charges are currently due. However, if any fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the application, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,
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AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION AND CLAIMS SHOWING CHANGES

In the Claims:

Amend claim 34 as follows:

34. (Amended) A system for processing a time-dependent hyperlink in a video, comprising:

a first content server comprising a video;

a user input/output device comprising a display for displaying the video and an input [output] device for selecting a position on said display;

a browser arranged for connecting said user input/output device to said first content server;

at least one hyperlink and content reference cross-referenced with coordinates indicating where the at least one hyperlink appears in the video stored in said first content server, said coordinates including display position and time during the video, and said content reference indicating a second content server comprising an electronic document to which the hyperlink is linked;

means for determining when said hyperlink is selected by determining when coordinates at which the hyperlink appears in the video are selected; and

means for switching over a connection of said browser from said first content server to said second content server for user access to said electronic document in said second content server when said means for determining determines that said hyperlink has been selected.